

REMARKS

Claims 11-22 were pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 11, 14, 16, 19, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,151,067 to Suemoto et al ("Suemoto et al").

Claims 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suemoto et al.

Claims 23 -30 have been added.

Claims 11 and 16 have been amended to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection

The rejection of claims 11, 14, 16, 19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Suemoto et al, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Claim 11 has been amended to recite "a detector for detecting whether or not any connection device is attached to said connector." The amendment finds support at page 16, lines 11-13 of the specification. The amendment makes clear that the claimed detector distinguishes between two states: (1) anything is attached to the connector and (2) nothing is attached to the connector. The device disclosed by Suemoto fails to detect the attachment of some external devices. For example, the Suemoto video camera cannot determine whether or not AV connector 92 is connected to multi-connector 11. See Table 1. Because Suemoto fails to disclose "a detector for detecting whether or not any connection device is attached to said connector," it is respectfully submitted that Suemoto is distinguished by claim 11, as well as by claim 14 which depends therefrom.

Amended claim 16 recites “a detector for detecting whether or not any connection device is attached to said connector.” As provided above in respect of claim 11, this feature of claim 16 is not disclosed by Suemoto. Claim 16 further recites “when said detector detects that any connection device is attached to said connector, the camera system is transitioned into a state in order to output stored image data to the external apparatus.” That is, whenever a connection device is attached to the connector, the camera changes to a mode for outputting stored image data. In contrast, Suemoto discloses that data is input or output through the multi-connector depending on operation of the camera. See column 7, lines 29-37. Because Suemoto does not disclose every feature of claim 16 it is respectfully submitted that Suemoto is distinguished by claim 16, as well as by claims 19 and 21 which depend therefrom.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 11, 14, 16, 19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Suemoto et al, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

The rejection of claims 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Suemoto et al, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Claims 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20, and 22 depend from one of claims 11 and 16. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that Suemoto is distinguished by these claims for at least the same reasons as provided above regarding their respective base claim.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suemoto et al, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

New Claims

New claims 23-30 are added to address additional features of the present invention. The new claims find support in the specification at, for example, page 4, lines 16-26.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment increases the number of independent claims by 2 from 2 to 4 (3 claims previously paid for) and increases the total number of claims by 8 from 12 to 20, but does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, a Response Transmittal and Fee Authorization form authorizing the amount of \$200.00 to be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260 is enclosed herewith in duplicate. However, if the Response Transmittal and Fee Authorization form is missing, insufficient, or otherwise inadequate, or if a fee, other than the issue fee, is required during the pendency of this application, please charge such fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

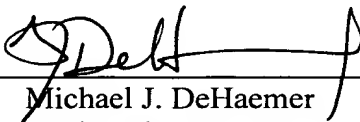
If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee,

Application No. 09/047,676
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and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's
Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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